

**BEFORE YOU SEARCH**

Discussion Points for System Partners Prior to Engaging Family and Youth

* What concerns do you have about having family and youth working with all of you in this decision and policy making process?
* Have you created a clear purpose for how your County Leadership Team will function? What are the reasons families and youth would want to work with the county system partners?
* What knowledge do families and youth need to have to be able to participate in a valuable way to the discussion and decision making process?
* Think about how *only* the family members and youth can bring specific knowledge, personal experience and on the ground consequences of past decisions. Adding this missing dimension to any discussion enriches the decisions that your county leadership team is making in a holistic fashion.
* What family and youth do you think should be part of your County Leadership Team attending and participating in all meetings? Most important, they need the experience of raising a child who was in need of mental health (and other system(s) support and services.
* You may also want to be thinking what family and youth may be a good fit in other agencies, programs, systems, and community entities in your county. Be prepared to recommend other places their voice is needed so that the family and youth perspective is not coming from the same few family and youth.
* There are places to reach out to look for families and youth who may have the knowledge and experience needed. Some families may not have knowledge of *all* systems. Create a learning opportunity of any system and use it to also educate/ train other family and youth. Consider using this as a cross system event including all systems and the PA System of Care Partnership. Flyers placed in strategic places are always beneficial.
* For youth think about those 18 to 26 year olds who have had previous involvement in the different systems to bring to your County leadership Teams

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